



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.43 Thursday, October 24, 2013 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

Three candidates run for two council seats in City of Belleville

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Two four-year terms on the Belleville City Council will be filled by voters in the Nov. 5 General Election.

There are three candidates: a newcomer to political office, Robert Balderston; former Belleville Mayor Tom Fielder; and incumbent Councilwoman Kim Tindall.

The Independent sent out candidate forms to gather information on the candidates and they all cooperated and completed the forms on deadline.

Robert (Bob) Balderston

Robert (Bob) Balderston, 52, of 256 Second Street, is running for his first elective political office.

He and his wife Cristina Balderston, a flight attendant for Delta Airlines, have lived in the City of Belleville for about six years.

He is an artist and has completed some college courses.

Balderston was appointed to the planning commission in 2010, served for three months, and resigned due to health reasons.

"I belong to no clubs or organizations. My choice is to focus my attention to the needs at hand. My hobbies are raising exotic finches, reading and, of course, art.

"I am running for office because I feel we need to restore the mandate of the voting populace. Even in a democracy, we have become more or less a Roman Monarchy.

The council and the mayor's office are puppet-like offices that have taken all responsibility, and put it into the hands of appointed officials, thus removing any real voter say in the running of our city.

"The office of the mayor and council should be full-time positions and the office of the city manager, should also be an elected position, allowing the city voters the choice of persons suited to run the full-time operations, not decisions that the council and mayor have made.

"Voting for properly qualified officials, rather than people who are part of the Belleville dynasties, or political cliches, will return confidence in the voting public.

"Regardless of whom you vote for, it is all a moot point if even for just local elections, that the public can and should vote. Make your voice heard.

Balderston explained his goals:

"My goals of running for this office of City Council is one to lead, not to follow, or just work with others or groups, who have no bearing of the needs of the city.

"Leading means to question and proactively act in regards to the city's now and future needs. Rather than just being a paper tiger for four years, I feel each and every term of any office, we have to get the voting public, to make their voices heard.

"No elected office is worth its decisions, if the public does not get involved. A

(continued on page 13)



It was a rainy last Saturday, with temperatures in the 40s, but the Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society put on its historical tour of Tyler Cemetery anyway. Two of those giving information at graves and other sites were portraying ghosts that employees of the Visteon site behind the cemetery have reported seeing. Above, Museum Director Katie Dallos plays the part of "The Woman in Black" who she believes used to be in Haggerty subdivision, but moved to Tyler Cemetery once her family moved Up North. This local ghost has been featured in books, newspaper articles, and television reports. At right, Emma, age 9, daughter of Michael and Sarah Kelley of Van Buren Township, portrays Ruth Lapeer, who died on Christmas Eve, 1934, at the age of four and a half. Workers at Visteon report seeing the little girl sitting at her grave, playing with



her dog, a black Lab. Emma held a smaller, stuffed dog for her portrayal and most of the time kept it dry under the rainproof plastic wrap she wore.



Balderston

Fielder

Tindall

Felony exam for ex-attorney White delayed another month

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Disbarred Belleville attorney Thomas A. White, 45, was scheduled to appear before Judge David Parrott in 34th District Court on Oct. 16 so his preliminary exam on five felony charges could be held.

But the day before the session, his criminal defense attorney Michael Vincent asked the court to adjourn that session for another month and the court agreed.

The preliminary exam is now set for 9

(continued on page 7)

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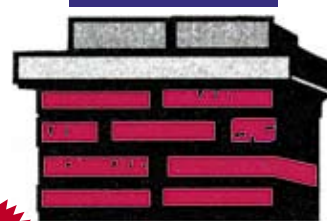
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT Board holds two days of budget sessions to prepare for 2014

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After two days of hearing what directors of all the departments want or need to survive in 2014, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees decided last week that they were spending more than they're bringing in and cuts had to be made.

But, what to cut?
The board set a work/study session at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6, to further discuss the proposed \$14.1 million budget, which, under state law, has to be balanced and passed by the end of the year.

In an introductory message to the board as the sessions began on Oct. 16, Supervisor Linda Combs pointed out that in Wayne County, Sumpter Township is the only community less expensive to live in than Van Buren Township.

She said, according to SEMCOG figures, VBT is allocating \$448 per resident for the services it provides, though receiving only \$158 per resident in taxes.

For the last 12 years, the township has been using landfill revenues to balance its budget, but the landfill has only about 11.5 years to be in business "and revenues are continuing to drop faster than the costs we expend," she said.

Combs said that:

- The Public Safety Millage provides only \$3.34 million of the nearly \$7.9 million in expenses. In 2014 almost \$5 million must be supplemented;

- Parks and Recreation's proposed 2014 budget, while understaffed, amounts to nearly \$300,000 in expenses without a current millage; and

- The Senior Department budget is also understaffed with a 2014 budget over \$230,000 without a current millage to support it.

"I could go on but, clearly, it is evident that significant planning and effort must occur to continue to provide essential services," Supervisor Combs said.

On the final day of the budget discussions, Treasurer Sharry Budd orally gave some figures on the budget which confused the board and sent Trustee Brenda McClanahan up to a white board to write down the figures for all to see.

After putting down all the figures and doing the math with other members of the board helping, it turned out the budget needs roughly \$1.3 million, but that doesn't consider transfers from the landfill fund, which currently holds \$4.3 million.

The board said it could just transfer over money from the landfill fund to cover the amount needed, but then there would be little in that fund, that currently brings in \$3.225 million a year.

"Spending landfill funds for operation is not illegal," said Trustee Jeff Jahr. "But it was meant to do capital improvements, cultural projects. We got into dipping into it for operations and now we are taking out more than is coming in."

"Then you throw in the Visteon issue," said Trustee Reggie Miller, referring to the bonds the township is obligated to pay when the income to pay them falls short in 2018.

"Visteon is different from the landfill..." Clerk Leon Wright replied.

"We may want to use the landfill money for Visteon," Trustee Miller said.

"Landfill money isn't going to make a dent in the Visteon figures," Supervisor Combs said, referring to an unpaid bond total of some \$47 million.

"It's an elephant in the room," Miller insisted.

Trustee Jahr said all the requests from the directors are valid, but the board has to cut.

"What is the problem?" Trustee Phil Hart asked, answering himself with, "Nine percent is the problem right now. Could be we simply have a directive to cut 9%."

"Benefits and health care. That's the biggie," Treasurer Budd said of the expenses.

Supervisor Combs stated, "You can't cut your way out of this mess ... We have to generate revenue."

At the end of the budget sessions, board members said they will study the situation and send feedback and recommendations to the supervisor before the Nov. 6 meeting.

Among the statements at the two days of budget sessions:

- Combs: "Working with the Affordable Care Act ... It's been a nightmare." Fire Chief Dan Besson said he cut back on the hours allowed for paid-per-call fire fighters because of the Act and then, when the President postponed that part of the Act, Besson kept the hourly cutbacks in place so he wouldn't be going back and forth with the fire fighters. "I took money away from them for shifts because I have to accommodate the law."

- Public Safety Director Greg Laurain called Fire Chief Besson "a valued asset to our agency" and recommended hiking Besson's pay from \$69,000 to \$81,000. The board suggested the figure be \$80,000, plus the \$500 signing bonus all salaried department heads are getting for three years. The signing bonuses for salaried personnel were put in place by the three full-time elected officials without coming to the full board.

- They discussed the dispatch fee charged to the City of Belleville that has been

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP ALLOCATED FRINGE BENEFITS

Department	2012	2013 Amended	2014 Proposed
Retiree Health Care	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Executive Board	\$68,213	\$52,901	\$22,000
Supervisor's Office	\$57,600	\$74,747	\$77,500
Election	\$12,460	\$13,750	\$12,500
Clerk's Office	\$102,633	\$123,000	\$126,602
IT Department	\$22,208	\$26,000	\$25,000
Assessing	\$23,548	\$39,310	\$39,762
Treasurer's Office	\$100,906	\$105,900	\$112,626
Building & Grounds	\$86,126	\$112,500	\$112,500
Cemetery	\$184	\$350	\$500
Police	\$1,381,960	\$1,509,595	\$1,382,459
Dispatch	\$217,624	\$228,103	\$239,508
Animal Control	\$13,323	\$17,000	\$17,000
Fire Department	\$127,562	\$141,000	\$154,250
Planning & Building	\$167,532	\$151,655	\$210,020
Community Services	\$40,985	\$46,000	\$48,000
Recreation Department	\$47,348	\$66,000	\$68,000
Senior Citizen Dept.	\$35,180	\$35,500	\$58,500
Cable Department	\$10,926	\$11,500	\$11,500
Park and Lake	\$26,410	\$23,500	\$23,994
Retiree & Cobra Benefits	\$174,681	\$195,000	\$195,000
TOTAL	\$2,817,409	\$3,073,311	\$3,037,221

Allocated Fringe Benefits consist of health, vision, disability, life, pension, and FICA. The township contributes 12% to a 401(a) pension for police and full-time employees. All fire fighters receive a 6% township contribution to the 401(a). Paid-on-call fire fighters do not receive health care. Employee contributions: command officers, 9.5%; full-time employees, patrol and dispatch, 5%; and fire fighters, 3.5%.

Compiled by Diane Madigan

\$145,600 for the past two years, agreeing it should be increased. "We had upgrades and we should have more money," said Police Lt. Ken Floro, who supervises the township's dispatch department. Combs said last year, she and Budd sat down with the then public safety director who said the previous fee was adequate. Budd said she would like to see a schedule to see what the township should have had in fees. She said this won't go to the board for amendments until December.

- Discussing the Belleville dispatch services led Jahr to ask, "Why don't we consolidate more? It makes sense if we can provide mutual services." Clerk Wright suggested consolidating police and fire with the city, adding, "We pretty much patrol Belleville as it is ... cars on Liberty and High. Why hasn't something like this ever been approached? ... I know personalities are involved." Lt. Floro said, "We help them a lot and in reverse they are there to help us, as well." Public Safety Director Laurain said, "Consolidating the police and fire ... the state likes that. Now they want you to collaborate with other agencies." Budd said in years past the departments actually sat down together, but when they got to "Who's going to be this ... that ... it fell apart." Combs said, in all fairness, she had to report that Mayor Kerreen Conley asked within the last six months to sit down and talk about shared services and cooperative

ventures that the communities could work together on, including Sumpter Township. Combs said Conley was busy with her children and so they have yet to meet.

- Supervisor Combs said she is studying a proposed contract with Romulus for Animal Control services, similar to what VBT has with the Humane Society, with VBT catching and transporting the dogs themselves, unless they are vicious. She said the township's animal control officer does not have the ability to dart animals. Laurain said when the township gave over the license to the Department of Agriculture, it gave over the ability to dart. Combs said the Romulus rate is less than the Humane Society and Romulus will give VBT a key so animals can be dropped off at any time. Budd said even if the township said it wouldn't have an animal control officer, the man doing the job now is a full-time employee and his pay will just move to another area. Combs added, "If we use Romulus, we qualify for state money ... we'll talk with them once their council election is over."

- Clerk Wright proposed a full-time Human Resource position. The board also discussed paying for mileage and overnight stays for attendance at Michigan Township Association conferences, which Wright supports and Budd opposes. "I'm just looking at a budget that's destitute," Budd said.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Sumpter Board OKs FD agreement with Van Buren

On Tuesday, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve a Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Agreement with Van Buren Township.

Sumpter attorney Rob Young said the mutual aid agreement says if an incident breaks out in VBT where they need a Sumpter Township tanker truck for help, Sumpter Township will automatically respond.

Likewise, if rural Sumpter Township needs special fire-fighting equipment that VBT has to fight a fire in its industrial area on Rawsonville Road, or elsewhere, VBT will automatically respond.

Sumpter Fire Chief Joe Januszyk was authorized to execute the agreement.

"This is if certain things happen, and hopefully they don't..." said Young. "But, if they do, we're covered."

At a VBT budget session last week VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson mentioned the pact in passing. He said VBT has trailer parks that have a fire hydrant at the main road and none within, so when a fire breaks out, water needs to be carried in – and rural Sumpter has the tanker trucks.

The two departments, whose jurisdictions meet on Bemis Road, have been helping each other, anyway, but now it's a formal agreement. This is what the state is encouraging: cooperative agreements. And, there are incentives, as well. It's the old Good Neighbor Policy writ large.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Darryl Butler sent me a message on Thursday, after the Oct. 17 *Independent* was out on the streets: "Thanks, your article was extremely effective. Mr. Berch (correct last name spelling) contacted me this afternoon. One of your readers contacted him at his Southern home. Thank you very much for running the article."

This was concerning the "odd request" Darryl sent me about the man his uncle was trying to find. His uncle, a retired Wayne County Deputy Sheriff, saved the man's life from frozen Belleville Lake on Valentine's Day, 1953.

Glad to help.

The City of Novi has a proposal on its Nov. 5 ballot to post public notices on its website rather than publishing them in their local newspaper, as they have in the past.

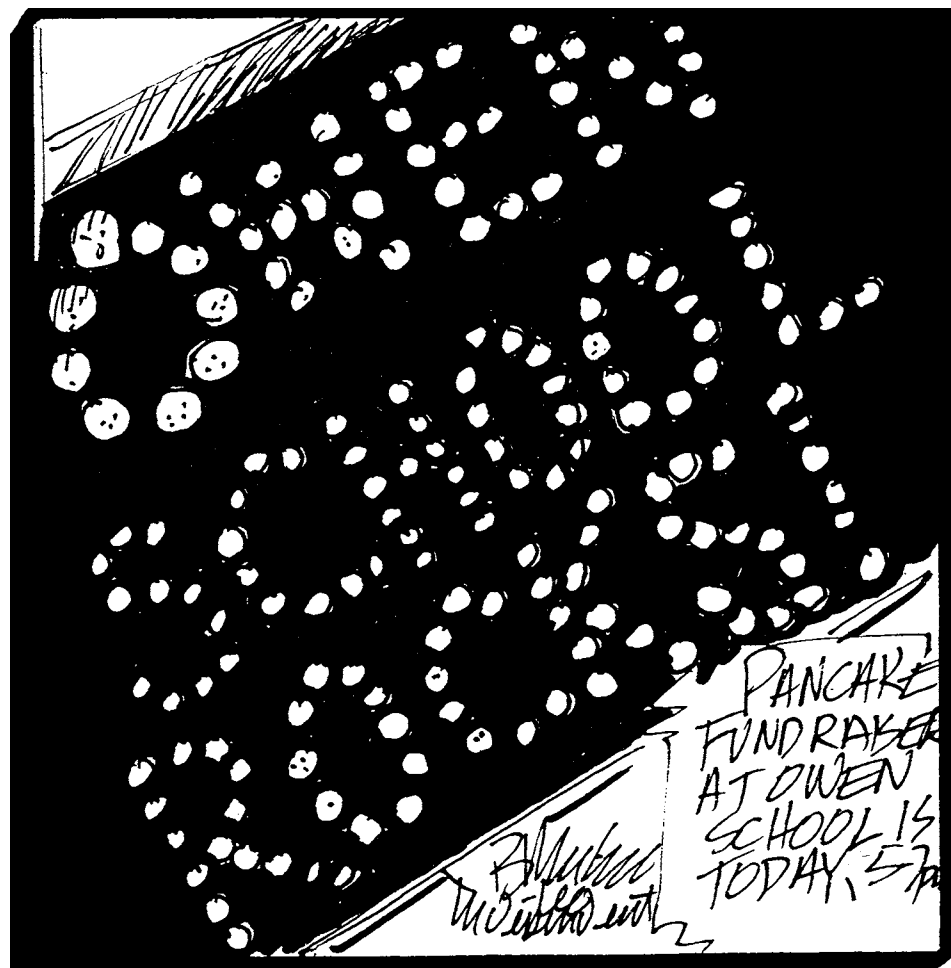
It's important to publish public notices where the citizens in each community can find them, which is an essential part of democracy.

Novi says this will save them money and it will. And, if Novi passes such a law, others throughout the state may, too. Ann Arbor already did.

I've heard too many stories of how things posted on-line can be hacked into and changed and lost. A nice hard copy on file with a notarized affidavit of publication attached is permanent.

We'll see what happens next. I know a lot of people who would be very unhappy if they had to rely on a computer to get their public notices.

The City of Westland recently decided not to charge for Freedom of Information



Act materials until the city could figure out how much it could legally charge after a law suit was filed – and the city lost.

Reportedly, last week Westland changed its fees to charge only for labor, plus \$1 or 50 cents depending on the request.

On Aug. 29, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Marvin Stempien ruled against Westland in a lawsuit brought by Steven Eugene LaHaine and his Livonia attorney William Maze.

"They were over-charging," said Maze. "Clearly they were doing it to make a profit."

Judge Stempien wrote that "The public policy stated in the Public Act is subverted by any cost to the members of the public who are requesting information that is outside the actual cost enumerated in the Act."

Westland argued that the Freedom of Information Act allows it to charge for the equipment use in the activities that are required to comply with the FOIA request, but nowhere in the Act is a charge for the cost of equipment permitted.

They were charging \$75 per police department video and \$35 for audio. For documents they were charging \$5 for the first and second pages and \$1 per page after that. Or, you could pay a flat \$45.61 per hour rate.

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy also filed a lawsuit against Westland claiming these fees violated the state's

FOIA law and that case is still pending. That case was prompted by a \$5 fee the city was charging before even beginning to search for the requested information.

At its budget session last week, Van Buren Township Clerk Leon Wright said his office was looking at increasing fees for various things, including charging for notarizing that it now offers free.

We hope he doesn't go too far.


On Aug. 29 there was a gas leak at the Van Buren Township Hall when the crew replacing the roof damaged a line. DPW Director James Taylor praised the work of Dave McNally in managing the situation, as well as other township staff that made sure the building was safely evacuated and then ventilated.

When they were allowed in the building, some staff members complained of headaches, so everyone was given the rest of the day off.

One of our readers came to our office that day saying she went to pay her taxes at the VBT Hall, but they told her she couldn't come in the building. She said she thought there was a gas leak.

Well, she was right. It took me a while to find out the details about that. Glad there were no injuries.





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Virginia Memering shows the uneven sidewalk that tripped her and gave her two black eyes on Sept. 29. This is on Edgemont, south of E. Huron River Dr.

**Pleading with Belleville
Council to fix hazards**

Attn: City Manager

An Open Letter to Mayor Conley and the
Belleville City Council:

Oct. 15, 2013

I have been a homeowner and taxpayer in the City of Belleville for over 60 years. For many of those years, it has been my daily routine to walk a one-mile route up and down my neighborhood streets. I walk south on Edgemont, west on Robb, north to Angola, and east onto Huron River Drive.

On Sunday morning, Sept. 29, 2013, I began my early-morning, routine walk. As I turned to walk onto Edgemont, I tripped and fell on the sidewalk in front of the first house. This is a sidewalk that has long been in a sorry state of disrepair. When I fell, a police car entered onto Edgemont and seeing me fall, immediately called paramedics. I thanked them for

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Letters

their attention, but determined I needed no further care. Although I suffered aches and pain along with two colorful black eyes, I was lucky. I am thankful my injuries were few.

I suspect that because our side streets are not as visible and less traveled than Huron River Drive, they apparently don't deserve the same attention or maintenance. Over the years there have been many complaints from my neighbors. But I want to remind the Council that we side-street residents are also taxpayers; we expect and deserve the same amount of attention.

I have personally counted 31 defective areas. I have also noted high levels of grass growing in cracks, even a tree growing in a crack on Angola which has caused a dangerous upheaval of the cement (another accident just waiting to happen!). Angola Street is especially bad!

I think you will agree when I say my fall could have been much more severe, both physically and legally. I want to see these accident-prone conditions remedied, before another person falls, one who may not be as lucky as I was.

I am pleading with the City Council to authorize the necessary inspections, to be followed up with whatever repairs are necessary to correct these hazards in our sidewalks. And, until this work is performed, I want the residents to know about these sidewalks and to beware!

Our police do not want us to walk in the streets, so I guess we need to be patient until the City solves our sidewalk problem. Until that happens, we walkers will have to purchase walking sticks and continue prodding the City Council.

I regret I will not be able to attend your next City Council meeting, so I am asking that this letter be read at your next meeting and at the same meeting, further action be taken regarding my above requests.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Virginia Memering
Belleville



Black eyes

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surpass our human interaction. The
world will have a generation of idiots.”*

— Albert Einstein

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More Letters

We're having a party to honor Lee Targgart

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Nov. 9, we are having a celebration in tribute to Lee Targgart, owner of Sumpter Ace Hardware.

We are recognizing his community service, which spans decades. We also acknowledge his civility, generosity, fairness, courage, and sense of humor.

The event will be held at the Sumpter Community Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Entertainment provided courtesy of Tear Drop Productions. Refreshments courtesy of Gasper Recycling and other participating to make this event successful.

Volunteers, food preparers, and speakers requested.

All acquainted with Lee are welcome.

Thanks, Lee.

Curtis, Sumpter Township

(734) 587-2925

Reply to Widener: Get your facts right

To the Editor:

This letter is for Mickey Widener. He stated that the President withheld benefits to soldiers. That is incorrect. The President did not shut the government down. His TEA PARTY friends did. Get your facts right. Too much FOX NEWS.

Willie Sanders

Belleville



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Obituaries



Eleanor Romej

ELEANOR ROMEJ

(September 10, 1920 - October 15, 2013)

Eleanor Romej, age 93, of Sumpter Township, died October 15, 2013. She was the beloved wife of the late Max and the loving mother of Nancy (Ray) Gronemeyer and Edward (Cindy) Romej. Dear grandmother of three and great-grandmother of four. She is also survived by one sister. She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Eleanor loved being on her farm and she loved to go to Senior Citizens. Visitation and funeral service was October 21, at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., 734-783-2646. Entombment in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

DOROTHY M. CHANDLER

(November 22, 1933 - October 18, 2013)

Age 79 of Warren, IN. Lifetime member of Maranatha Baptist Church, Belleville. Survived by 3 daughters, 2 sons, 3 brothers, 5 sisters, grandchildren & great-grandchildren. Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI

Grief support groups available at Brown's

Free grief support groups are available in morning and evening sessions at Brown family Center, 678 E. Huron River Dr. in Belleville.

"Genesis: A Personal Guide through Grief" started Oct. 17 and will run every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. through Nov. 21.

Also, an evening group has been formed to meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays from Oct. 29 through Dec. 3.

Call Mary Martinez, Grief Coordinator, at 734-697-5090, for information or to register.



Bill Cummings

WILLIAM 'BILL' GRANT CUMMINGS

William "Bill" Grant Cummings, age 93, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away on October 5, 2013.

Beloved father of Serena (Bill) Hardrick, Judy (Carl) Stopp, Joy (Edwin) Portelli. Grandfather of 10, Great-Grandfather of 28, Great-Great-Grandfather of 4.

Bill was an avid Nascar and sports fan, who was always going out of his way to help others. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of his life will be held on October 27, 2013 from 2-6 p.m. at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga St., Romulus, MI 48174.

Donations can be made to the wishes of the family, c/o Serena Hardrick.

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Oct. 28 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons
- Monday, Nov. 4 -- Van Buren Township work-study meeting, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 -- Van Buren Township board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 6 – Van Buren Township Staff Review, 1-4 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 11 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

Thomas White

(continued from page 1)

a.m. Nov. 13 before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green.

Five felony charges were filed against White in September, but on the request of attorney Vincent, Judge Parrott delayed White's preliminary exam on those charges until Oct. 16 because the Michigan State Police said more charges were pending.

Although at least two of White's former clients have case numbers with the Michigan State Police and are waiting for their charges to bring warrants against White, so far no new warrants have been approved by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office.

In the charges pending at 34th District Court, White is accused of defrauding the late Leland Jordan and his wife Judith A. Jordan of Belleville.

Conviction on those charges could bring him 44 years in prison if sentenced to the maximum.

34th District Court Brian Oakley said on Oct. 16 that he expects the case will be adjourned again on Nov. 13.

Vincent said he wanted to handle all the cases against his client in one package and Judge Parrott agreed, citing "judicial efficiency."

Meanwhile, White is out on bond after paying 10% of the \$20,000 set by Judge Parrott. Since he has yet to have a preliminary exam, White has yet to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charges concerning the Jordans.

Bankruptcy Court ruling

Also on Oct. 16, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Thomas J. Tucker signed an order granting relief to Robert and Gloria Coppock

so they can move forward with getting back the house they own at 41305 Savage Road, Van Buren Township.

The order terminates the automatic stay of the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy proceedings of former attorney White, who was disbarred on July 15 and filed bankruptcy on July 19.

The house on Savage is where White lives with his family, but he stopped paying land contract payments to the Coppocks and also stopped paying property taxes. White is still in possession of the house.

According to the Wayne County Delinquent Tax Office, the status of that property is "Forfeited" with total taxes of \$10,866.52 owed.

The judge's order states the approximate market value of the property as \$260,000 and the current debt owing is about \$306,688, which includes the unpaid property taxes and the Coppocks' attorney fees and costs for filing their motion.

When the Coppocks sell the property, if they get any more than what is owed they will give the extra back to the court and if it is less than owed, that amount will be treated as an unsecured debt.

Judge Tucker's order allows the Coppocks to move forward on reclaiming their property, sold to the Whites on land contract in 2006. They were prevented from claiming their property by White's bankruptcy proceedings.

At their option, the Coppocks now may call the Whites by telephone or contact them in writing to enter into a potential forbearance agreement (delaying foreclosure by allowing White to catch up on payments), land contract modification, refinance agreement or other loan agreement. The judge's order is binding and is immediately in effect.

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Congratulations to **BHS Homecoming Queen Taylor Robinson.**

There are plenty of festivities taking place this Halloween. Here's a list of some.

Belleville Presbyterian Church on Belleville Road is gearing up for its annual **Community Halloween Party** this Saturday, from 2 to 4 p.m. Call (734) 697-8687.

Also on Saturday, the **free Candy Loop at Quirk Park** will be behind the Van Buren Township Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Children dressed in Halloween attire can walk the path to various candy stops and receive treats. Rain or shine.

The **Bayou Grill** on Main Street will be holding a **Halloween Bash** and costume party also this Saturday featuring drink specials, best-costume prizes, and live music by the **Six Foot Poles**. Call (734) 697-2300.

The **Belleville Walmart** will be holding its annual trick or treat event also this Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trick or treat bags will be given to the first 500 children and free pictures will be taken for all costumed kids under 16 years old. Call **April Warner** at (734) 697-2078.

The **City of Belleville** and **Central Business Community** will be holding its annual trick or treat in Downtown Belleville from 5 to 7 p.m. on Halloween, Oct. 31. The CBC will be offering free cider and donuts as well as its Halloween costume contest at Fourth Street Square at 6 p.m.

The **Belleville Curves** in the **Davenport Industrial Plaza** will be holding its **Halloween/Breast Cancer Awareness Party** on Oct. 31, featuring games, prizes, and food for members and non-members. Call owner **Robin Gragg** at (734) 697-2000.

Zombies will be arriving at **The Lunch Box** this Halloween serving up special treats, tricks and other spooky surprises, beginning at 10 a.m. when they open. Enjoy free cider and donuts during the merchant's trick or treating event in the evening, then hop on a **free hayride** from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Call (734) 391-8281.

The **Belleville Chamber of Commerce** will be holding its **Annual Awards Dinner Comedy Night** tomorrow, Oct. 25, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the **Detroit Metro Airport**

Marriott Hotel in Romulus. Dinner is at 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 per ticket and cash bar is provided.

The award winners for 2013 are: **Dr. Brian Loranger** with the **Ted Kuckelman Award**, **Tom Fielder** with the **Leona Van Buhler Award**, and **Sumpter Collision** with **Business of the Year**. Other Membership Awards include **A&W**, **Comerica**, **Davenport Brothers Construction**, **EQ**, **Henry R. Deering Agency**, **Lodge Lanes**, **Martin & Son**, **National Strawberry Festival**, **Perspective Eyecare**, and **Rotary Club of Belleville**. Congratulations, all!

The **Belleville Wrestling Club** will be holding open registration on Nov. 5 and 7, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. both days inside the Belleville High School Wrestling Room. The cost is \$125 per child. The program is open to all boys and girls in grades K through 8 interested in joining the club, which will teach the fundamentals of folk-style wrestling, as well as intermediate and advanced techniques. Practices will be held every Tuesday and Thursday starting Nov. 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each day. For info, call (734) 697-7887, (734) 564-3470. or email the club at bellevillewrestling@yahoo.com.

The **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** of Sumpter will be holding their **Wine Tasting Fundraiser** on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the **Vintner's Canton Winery**. The cost is \$25 per ticket

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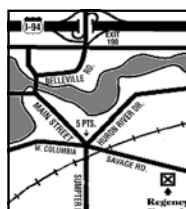
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and space is limited. Tickets include a split bottle of Green Apple wine, 7 tastes of Vintner's wine, and appetizers. For info, visit www.fmar1.org or call (734) 461-9458.

The **Willis Feed Mill** just off Willis Road at the railroad tracks in nearby Willis is having a **Pet Goat Blowout Sale**. Goats are great lawn-mowers, too, says owner **Bob Durham**. Call (734) 461-1111.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Parents of young children invited to free parenting classes

The Van Buren Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at Haggerty School recently held the first class in the Parenting for Success series.

The group is open to all parents of preschool aged children interested in meeting other parents and learning new ways to prepare for school readiness.

The free trainings are every Tuesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. and focus on various strategies to engage a child.

Free childcare and light refreshments are also provided. Call Geri Sifton at 734-699-2180 for more information or to register.



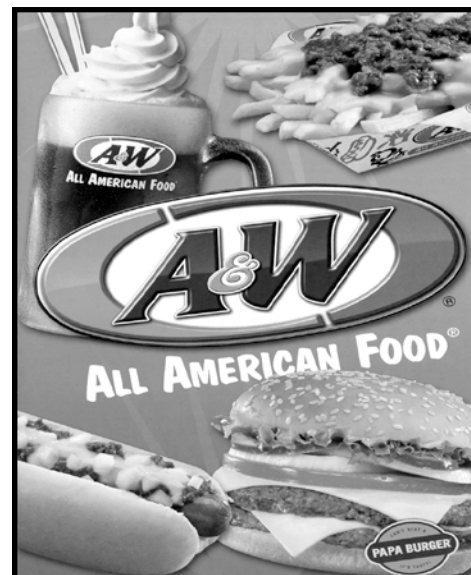
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Marc Littleleson voted president of Van Buren Area Little League

At a meeting of about 40 people on Oct. 13, the troubled Belleville Area Little

League (BALL) was dissolved and a new Van Buren Area Little League (VBALL) was formed.

Marc Littleleson was elected president; Tara Seward, secretary; Debby Rucker, treasurer; and Roland French, player agent.

Littleleson said there will be a public meeting in November to elect a vice president. He said all board meetings are open to the public.

Littleleson said they are working with the District 16 Director Larry Fix to build the local Little League program back up.

He said six years ago when he became involved with BALL as a coach, there were more than 600 players. Now there are about 360.

He said Canton Township has a very good Little League program and he wants VBALL to be even better than Canton.

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Thursday, November 7, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

Where: Belleville High School Wrestling Room
(up stairs by the athletic wing east entrance)

Required document: A copy of your child's birth certificate for our files



Fee: \$125 per child

(10% discount for each additional child in the same family)

Registration is open to all boys and girls in grades K through 8 interested in joining the Belleville Wrestling Club. This program is intended to teach children of all ages the basic fundamentals of folkstyle wrestling, as well as intermediate and advanced techniques for those who have a strong desire to improve upon the skills they already possess. Practice will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in the Belleville High School Wrestling Room, starting on Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

Contact Information:

Phone: 734-697-7887 or 734-564-3470

Email: bellevillewrestling@yahoo.com

Web: <http://www.efeamz.com/bellevillewrestling>

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50300 WILLOW, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

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47530 HARRIS, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

COUNTRY CHARM! Nature's palette of colors enhances this inviting 3 bedroom country ranch featuring open kitchen-dining area, 2 bathrooms, large 2-1/2 car attached garage plus pole barn and storage building. About an acre of fine country living and impressive curb appeal. Make this the one for you! \$169,900.

2 POLE BARN!



9502 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

LOTS TO LOVE! 5+ acre brick ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, finished basement with large living room and bar. Paved street and 2 huge pole barns. Possible re-zoning to commercial use. It's clean and neat with new carpet and fresh paint. This one shows great! \$250,000.

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Oct. 24** – Senior/ Retiree/ Adult swim time at the BHS Pool, 9-10 a.m., fee is \$5 per swimmer. Not a structured program. For adults only, no children.
- **Thursday, Oct. 24** – King Brothers will be serving a pancake supper at Owen Intermediate School from 5 to 7 p.m.. Cost is \$5 (\$15 for a family of four). All proceeds benefit the band program at Owen.
- **Saturday, Oct. 26** – Hillside Cemetery flag placement on veterans' graves needs volunteers. Cemetery gates open at 8:30 a.m.
- **Saturday, Oct. 26** -- Family/Open Swim at the BHS Pool, noon to 2 p.m., \$5 per swimmer. No swim diapers and only Coast Guard approved life vests permitted.
- **Saturday, Oct. 26** – It's the free Candy Loop at Quirk Park behind the Van Buren Township Hall from 5 to 7 p.m. Children dressed in Halloween attire can walk the path to various candy stops and receive treats. Rain or shine.
- **Saturday, Oct. 26** – Walmart on Belleville Road is holding its annual trick or treat event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Trick or treat bags go to the first 500 kids and free pictures for all costumed kids under age 16.
- **Sunday, Oct. 27** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

• **Tuesday, Oct. 29** – Senior/ Retiree/ Adult swim time at the BHS Pool, 9-10 a.m., fee is \$5 per swimmer. Not a structured program. For adults only, no children.

• **Thursday, Oct. 31** – Senior/ Retiree/ Adult swim time at the BHS Pool, 9-10 a.m., fee is \$5 per swimmer. Not a structured program. For adults only, no children.

• **Thursday, Oct. 31** – Trick or Treat on Main Street in downtown Belleville from 5-7 p.m. sponsored by the Central Business Community. Then, The Lunch Box is providing free hayrides around the downtown area from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. starting at the restaurant near the bridge.

• **Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1 and 2** – Sumpter Senior Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Sumpter Community Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd.. Proceeds go to put on the Sumpter Seniors' Christmas party.

• **Saturday, Nov. 2** – Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue is holding its fourth Wine Tasting Fundraiser, to help care for the dogs and cats in its no-kill shelter in Sumpter Township. The event is at Vintner's Canton Winery, 8515 N. Lilley Rd., Canton, 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$25 per ticket. Pay prior to the event by credit card at <http://fmar1.org/donateo.aspx> and type "Wine Tasting" into the designation box.

• **Sunday, Nov. 3** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

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DeBucks turn suffering sod farm into successful corn maze, play area

By Jasmine Carter

Independent Special Writer

The sun shone brightly as it set across the cornstalks and farm wagons at DeBuck's Farm on Martz Road in Van Buren Township.

After more than 30 years as a sod farm, the DeBuck's business has transitioned to a corn maze, making family fun from hard times. When the housing slump hit the sod farm, Norman DeBuck and his family started thinking of diversifying the family business.

His new business plan was to create family entertainment.

"Our family was always good at entertaining people -- Halloween parties, gatherings," son Scott DeBuck said, adding that the family wondered, "Why not entertain for the people of Belleville?"

They started studying the entertainment business and attended conventions and seminars across the country.

This is the DeBucks' fifth season with the corn maze, after opening in 2009. The sod farm started in 1980 and continues.

DeBuck's corn maze is open just a few weeks each fall, this year from Sept. 15 through Oct. 27.

School tours are Tuesdays through Fridays, with admission of \$5 per student and includes a small pumpkin for an additional \$1 each.

Teachers are admitted free, but additional parents or siblings must pay. The school tours are educational and include various activities for children to enjoy.

"During the week, it's school groups only and the outside public is not allowed. The public is here only on weekends for security purposes," said owner Norman DeBuck.

Wanting to create a safe haven for young children and security for families to enjoy themselves, DeBuck's corn maze focuses on having fun and learning along the way.

The corn maze, Family Fun Area, Pumpkin Patch, and Linda's Country Kitchen are open Fridays 6 to 10 p.m.

The site is open Saturdays 1 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 7 p.m. General



Independent photo by Bob Mytych

Getting ready for a hayride last Saturday afternoon at DeBuck's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch in Van Buren Township are, from right to left) Norm DeBuck, Mike Chapman, Scott DeBuck and the Wellday family of Belleville.

admission is \$11 (for ages three and older), seniors citizens, aged 65 and up are \$9 and children aged two and under are free with a paid adult. Ticket sales end one hour before closing.

DeBuck's is a family business owned by Norman and Linda DeBuck.

DeBuck's corn maze has Linda's kitchen that serves chicken noodle soup, pulled pork, chili, and also offers daily specials. Washing stations and restroom facilities are available for use at all times.

Those who come to the farm vary with the day, said Scott DeBuck. On Friday nights it's usually high school students and moms and dads who want a night out to themselves, he said.

"Saturdays and Sundays are usually family days," he said, adding they get a lot of groups from churches, baseball teams, scouts, and social organizations.

"I encourage other farmers to do their homework," said Norman DeBuck. "I never stop researching. I am very dedicated in this line of work."

"Every year gets busier and busier," said Linda DeBuck. "Every year as more people support the business it gives DeBuck's enough money to add additional attractions."

Jasmine Carter of Van Buren Township is a senior majoring in journalism at Eastern Michigan University.

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Sundays in October @ 12 Noon
Registration Starts @ 11:30 a.m.
October 27th

Rules: 12, 16, 20 Gauge Shotguns - 30" Barrel Max., NO Scopes

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Candidates

(continued from page 1)

council meeting should inspire people to come to the meetings and get involved, but not to the extreme like that of the VBT or BADL meetings which are rolling circuses that really achieve nothing.

"I wish that my office and those of the others, can easily be judged to handle the hard decisions, and will set the course for actions and voters to come. The people need to vote, and be part of the responsibility we all share," he concluded.

Tom Fielder

Tom Fielder, 67, of 206 South Street, is running for a seat on the City Council, after serving as Belleville's mayor in the past. Fielder served a partial term in 1998 and was elected to two full terms in 1999 and 2003. His father also served as Mayor of Belleville.

Fielder was born in Belleville and has lived here his whole life. He earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and retired as a teacher at Belleville High School.

Fielder currently serves on the city's Downtown Development Authority and the city's Parks and Recreation Committee.

He is president of the Belleville Area Historical Society, president of the Belleville National Strawberry Festival, and serves on the board of directors of the Belleville Central Business Community, SEMCA, and Growth Works.

"I have lived in the City of Belleville for my entire life," Fielder said in answering

an *Independent* request for information on his candidacy.

"Growing up and working here had me becoming active in my community. I was coach of multiple sports at Belleville High School, invited to help write the State MEAP test in Social Studies, and after retirement served on the millage committee to build a new Belleville High School.

"My involvement with young people has resulted in my serving as chairman of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee for Western Wayne County and as a Board member of Growth Works, Inc., a youth services provider.

"I would like to continue to bring this background of knowledge to community decisions," he said.

He said he is running for office because: "It is no secret that the greatest problem facing local governments today is how to continue to provide quality services with diminished resources. The simple answer is to cut costs by reducing programs and personnel. The negative aspect of this approach is that current residents and new residents chose to live where the quality of life is high. Cuts alone result in a population and property tax loss which may cause a net loss in any financial savings.

"I believe we must explore cooperative services with neighboring communities to keep valuable programs at a financial savings to everyone. These types of programs might be found with not only neighboring governments, but also with educational and perhaps even private agencies. However, these cooperative ventures can't

just occur without government officials balancing cost savings against diminished community services our residents have come to expect."

In responding to an *Independent* question on his goals in office, Fielder responded:

"One of the most frustrating things I see in today's government is the inability of officials to find common ground to solve problems and deliver services to their constituents.

"Local governments in the United States seems to be one of the few places where compromise government is still alive. Certainly, in the City of Belleville the employees, administration, elected and appointed officials have used this as a principle of good government.

"I have taught compromise when discussing the most significant features of our National Constitution. I practiced this principle when I previously served as an elected official. I hope to be able to continue to use this philosophy as a Council representative for the residents of the City of Belleville," Fielder concluded.

Kim Tindall

Kim Tindall, 48, of 371 Church Street, who has served on the Belleville City Council for one term, since 2009, is running for re-election.

Her fiancé is Steve Jones, chairman of the Belleville Planning Commission and president of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts.

Tindall's daughter, Colette is a graduate of Belleville High School and Michigan State University and recently moved to Washington, D.C. to live and work.

Her daughter, Aimee, is a graduate of BHS and is scheduled to report for basic training for the U.S. Army in November.

Tindall is a graduate of Ypsilanti High School and attended Washtenaw Community College for continuing education credits. She is not currently working.

Besides running successfully for City Council in 2009, she was elected three times to serve on her local union's executive board as trustee (UAW).

Tindall is a former vice chairperson of the Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission and presently serves as a member of the executive board of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, is a

member of the Tri-Community Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and is a member of the Belleville Area Historical Society.

She lists her hobbies as reading, watching sports, and hanging out with her dogs.

In response to the *Independent's* question: "Why are you running for Council?" Tindall replied:

"I'm seeking re-election to Council because I would like to continue with the work that I have been doing with the City Council for the last four years. Though we have moved forward with improvements such as the new streetscape, the District Library and increased transparency and communication, we still have work to do. We need to continue to work closely with Van Buren Public Schools and with our neighbors in Van Buren and Sumpter townships and we need to continue to nurture our relationships with our local community organizations.

"I believe the relationships that I've built within the community help to put our City Council in an advantageous position to do this."

As far as listing her goals, Tindall said: "As Michigan continues to lose our youth to more flourishing locations, Belleville needs to continue to market ourselves as a destination; not only a destination to come and play, but a destination to come and stay.

"As we continue to provide a high quality of living, we keep the great folks that already live here while enticing new residents and businesses as well. It's really a big circle -- more business, residents and visitors increase the tax base; the increased revenue allows us to provide high quality services; high quality services bring increased businesses, residents and visitors. We accomplish this by continuing to provide a high quality of living and continue to work together to highlight the advantages of our beautiful City."

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Saturday, October 26, 2013

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Belleville Presbyterian Church

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11900 Belleville Road

Gather up you and the children in your favorite costumes and come over for some Halloween Fun. There will be games, crafts, story-time, snacks and our famous "Parade of Costumes". This is a free event. All children must be accompanied by an adult.





Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela," c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Betty in Dearborn: My father passed away a few years ago and my mother is 94 now and in a nursing home. I am in the process of gathering information to put my mother's home up for sale. My mother and dad bought a modular home approximately ten years ago and put it on an acre of land owned by one of my siblings. My parents paid cash for the home and all the improvements to the land, including utilities.

I have found out that my parents do not own the land they put the home on. Instead, my sibling gave them a lease on the land. Will I still be able to sell the home?

Answer: I would say NO. Since the home is not considered real estate without the attached property. If you parents had tried to finance the purchase of the home, the lender would have made them aware that they needed to own the land. Also, since the home is an improvement to the land, your sibling who leased the land to them, may have a claim to all improvements to the land. I would strongly suggest you get a copy of the land lease and contact a REAL ESTATE attorney on behalf of your mother.

At this time you mother does not own any real estate to sell. And, the home is permanently affixed to the property. I hope that this can be worked out with the sibling and that the outcome will be to your mother's benefit. Good luck!

-- Angela

Angela Nettro/Broker

Real Estate

(734) 697-6655

Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Van Buren Twp. police to host *Coffee with a Cop* on Saturday, Nov. 9

On Nov. 9, officers from Van Buren Township Police Department and community members will come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues, build relationships, and drink coffee.

All community members are invited to attend *Coffee with a Cop*. The event runs from 8 to 10 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island on Belleville Road, just south of Tyler.

The event provides an opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's work in Van Buren Township neighborhoods.

The majority of contacts law enforcement has with the public happen during emergencies or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building with the community and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street, said VBT Public Safety Director Gregory Laurain.

Coffee with a Cop breaks down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

"We hope that community members will feel comfortable to ask questions, bring concerns, or simply get to know our officers," said Director Laurain. "These interactions are the foundation of community partnerships."

Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the county, as local police departments strive to make lasting connections with the communities they serve.

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members one cup of coffee at a time.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

— Patrick Henry

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The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flag Placement for Veterans Day 2013 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 26th.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery.

The cemetery gates will open at 8:30 a.m. to begin the flag placement project on Saturday, October 26th.

Volunteers are needed to help place the flags. Each Cemetery section takes only about an hour of work - a small sacrifice for us to honor those who fought to keep us free.

Join us to help honor our veterans as we prepare for Veterans Day 2013, an important year in the history of defending our liberty.



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SPACE #G-4, Jessica Johnston - 1 bed frame, 2 floor lamps, floor fan, dresser, misc. items
SPACE #A-23, Scott Macshara - air conditioner, baby chair, crib, stroller, twin headboard, 5+ boxes, aquarium, totes, children's toys, portable crib, misc. items
SPACE #E-34, Jerrue Purnell - twin box spring, frame, headboard, 3 chairs, mirror, suitcase, glass top table, tote

publish: October 24, 2013

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HELP WANTED

Hiring: Cook, Cashiers, and Utility Workers. Experienced Casual Dining Managers (salaried positions)

Midfield Concession Enterprises, A Premier Food and Beverage provider at Detroit Metropolitan International Airport has immediate full time positions for customer service professionals.

Accepting applications daily, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, at 6810 Metroplex Drive, Romulus, MI. 48174 or email resume to hr@midfieldconcession.com. Visit our website for more info about our company: www.midfieldconcession.com

All candidates must be able to pass an airport security 10 year background check, and have a valid photo ID.

WANTED: Laborers/ CDL Drivers for local excavating company.
Full & part time positions available.
To apply, call 1-800-566-6626

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

PART TIME HELP WANTED at Belleville Child Care Center. Monday-Friday. (734) 697-4523 11/14

HELP WANTED

For Classified Advertising, Display Advertising or News Tips
One call does it all: 734-699-9020 - The Independent

Sumpter Township Public Notice

HELP WANTED: ENGINEERING / PLANNING

The Township of Sumpter is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide engineering and planning services for Sumpter Township's CDBG program. Specifications available at the Sumpter Township Clerks Office Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111. 734-461-6201. Proposal must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon November 4, 2013.

Publish October 24, 2013

Sumpter Township Public Notice

EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL BIDS

The Township of Sumpter 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 is seeking sealed bids for snow removal of driveways for the Senior Chore Program. Bid is due by November 5, 2013 @3:00 pm.

Bid specifications available at the Clerk's Office.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk
 Publish October 17, 24 & 31, 2013

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

On Wednesday, October, 30th, 2013, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:30am, at **J&T Towing** and Storage, 287 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

2000	FORD	4D	1FAFP56S3YA252400	13-18711
2003	SATURN	4D	1G8JW54RX3Y502880	13-19544
1998	GMC	PU	1GTCS19W8W8537679	13-20158
1997	FORD	4D	1FALP13P8VW308020	13-20658
1995	NISSAN	4D	JN1CA21D3ST645513	13-20769
1996	DODGE	4D	1B3EJ56H7TN137068	13-21066
1994	CHRYSLER	4D	2C3EL56F8RH159688	13-21066
1996	HONDA	4D	1HGCD5633TA241342	13-21329
1993	CHEVROLET	PU	1GCEC14Z1PE251201	13-21376

At 11:30am, the auction will move to **Great Lakes Towing** and storage, 42350 Van Born Rd. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1999	CHEVROLET	4D	2G1WL52M1X9243257	12-28136
2002	PONTIAC	4D	1G2JB524627147028	12-28136
1994	FORD	SW	1FMEE11Y6RHA58481	13-11412
1997	CADILLAC	2D	1G6ET1290VU600342	13-20073
2001	NISSAN	4D	JN1CA31D41T836300	13-20315
1999	MERCURY	4D	1MEFM50U5XG641417	13-20416
1989	MERCURY	2D	3MABM1150KR653606	13-20692
2007	VOLKSWAGE	2D	3VWEF81KX7M083606	13-21667
2004	CHEVROLET	2D	2G1WF52E449196902	13-22424
1999	PONTIAC	4D	1G2NE52T1XC532379	13-22586
1996	CHEVROLET	2D	1G1JC1245TM124840	13-22586

All vehicles are sold in "as is condition." Bidding on all impounded vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Leon Wright, CMC
 Van Buren Township Clerk

Published: October, 24, 2013

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 15, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Fire Chief Besson, Secretary Cline and an audience of eighteen (18).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the agenda as amended removing New Business Item #2 "Consider the Executive Assistant Job Description." Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Minutes September 16, 2013; Closed Session Minutes September 16, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes September 17, 2013; Work Study Minutes September 30, 2013; Approving Fire Works Proposal by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce immediately following the lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2013 to be set off from the (closed) Denton Road Bridge and authorize the Supervisor to sign the permit; Voucher List of October 15, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on Dissolution of Industrial Development Districts 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 22. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Miller, McClanahan, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

Supervisor Combs opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Supervisor Combs went to Assessing Coordinator Stevenson for an overview. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated this public hearing is to hear comments regarding the consideration of the Dissolution of Industrial Development Districts 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 22. These districts were created between the years of 1978 and 2009. In accordance with Act Number 198 of the Public Acts of 1974, as amended, the Board of Trustees has the authority to dissolve Industrial Development Districts within the Township boundaries. None of these districts have current tax abatement exemptions. By dissolving these districts it will allow the Township Board the opportunity to completely review each applicant on an as needed basis and institute a district approach when reviewing any new tax abatement applications. A notice of this public hearing notice with the legal descriptions was published for two consecutive weeks as required. All owners of the parcels located in the districts were notified by certified mail. Assessing Coordinator Stevenson stated out of the thirteen property owners who received notification she had received around six calls. The last time the Township dissolved Industrial Development Districts was in 1997.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Budd moved Hart seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Hart, McClanahan, Miller, Budd, Wright and Combs. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Combs read an email from Fire Chief Besson congratulating Fire Lieutenant Curtis Lunsford,

Firefighter Ken Landstrom and Firefighter Elizabeth McCormick for their ten years of service with Van Buren Fire Department. Supervisor Combs read an email addressed to Public Safety Director Laurain and Fire Chief Besson from Wildbrook Homeowners Association thanking them for attending their recent Home Owners meeting.

Supervisor Combs read a letter from Thomas and Billie Welty thanking Police Officer Christopher Herrick, Lieutenant Charles Bazy and Dispatcher Julie Jones for the professional assistance they provided.

Chief Besson introduced two new Firefighters Christina Bojanic and Dale Willett and presented them with their badges and helmet shields.

Chief Besson stated the Fire Department now has 49 paid on call firefighters.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2013-16, Dissolution of Industrial Development Districts 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 and 22. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor Combs ordered the August 2013 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor Combs made the following announcements. Applications are available for Van Buren Township residents who are eligible for Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation assistance program for information contact Developmental Services Department; September Days Senior Center is hosting a Veteran's Day Luncheon on Friday, November 8th at 11:00 a.m.; Recreation Department is hosting a Candy Loop on Saturday, October 26th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Quirk Park located behind Township Hall; October 19th the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held for township residents at Environmental Quality Company East parking lot located at 49350 North I-94 Service Drive from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Belleville Area Museum and Historical Society will host a Cemetery History Tour at Tyler Cemetery on October 19th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; a thank you to the businesses who brought their trucks to the recently hosted "Touch A Truck" event where children were able to explore all types of trucks and thank you to the Recreation Department staff.

Clerk Wright announced the Public Board of Trustees Agenda Packet and the Public Work Study Packet are available on the Township website. Also, encouraged residents to attend the Cemetery History Tour at Tyler Cemetery and stated the pathways through Tyler Cemetery have been redone.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 7:17 p.m. to 7:29 p.m. by residents as follows: agenda packets on website; new paint on the outside of Township Hall; Public Safety budget; request for a Public Safety Committee; Little League baseball at Beck Road Ball Diamonds and Host Agreement with Environmental Quality.

ADJOURNMENT: Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
 Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor
 Publish: October 24, 2013

"Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising."

Mark Twain

More Letters

Need help with the Christmas Tree

To the Editor:

Once again, I am asking for help in decorating our Tri-Community Christmas Tree.

After a late start two years ago, we finally got the go-ahead to "plant" our Tri-community (Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township) Christmas Tree.

Although my original wish was to once again place a Christmas Tree at 5 Points in Belleville, the City Council approved a

spot at the gateway to Belleville near the bridge just off Liberty Street.

Many people contributed time and labor, decorations and money in order to make this effort a reality, for which I am very grateful.

Our Tri-Community Christmas Tree still has some bare spots and I'm appealing for more help with the decorations. Anyone wishing to donate an outdoor ornament or a cash donation, please call me at 734-697-7805. Any and all contributions will be very much appreciated.

Thank you,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

**One Call Does It All . . .
. . . At the Independent
699-9020**

Daryl Berg checks in from his Hawaii home

To the Editor:

Aloha. Thanks for printing my mom's letter and Anita Greca's answer.

I thought the \$25 fee was for dinner and was not told it was an admission fee. I was dressed better than others I saw going into the reunion. The word "shabby" makes me look like "Pig Pen" in Charlie Brown cartoons!

Then, I got a phone call one hour later from classmates saying I would be allowed "in" if I returned to the school. I was in Ypsilanti visiting other pals by then. Oh well!

Daryl E. Berg
Naalehu, Hawaii

P.S. I was wearing clean long shorts and a very nice U. of Mich. #1 football jersey. I watched a guy go in in blue jeans and T-shirt. Oh, and I was treated "worse" by Army drill sergeants.

Editor's Note: This letter is from the Belleville High School alumnus who wasn't allowed in to the recent All-Class Reunion at BHS.

Thanks to all who helped with Harvest Fest

To the Editor:

We could not have asked for better weather for the annual Harvest Fest. Staff and volunteers from the Library and Museum have worked tirelessly to bring a fun-filled day for area children.

Our thanks to them and to the Belleville DDA, A&W restaurant, Belleville Area Women's Club, Belleville Community Chorus, First United Methodist Church, Belleville Central Business Community, Belleville Fire Department, Jitterbug Elite Dance, Bob Mytych for coordinating the Chalk Art, and all the exhibitors.

The Belleville Central Business Community also sponsored the parade celebrating 100 years of scouting and our thanks to them and all the participants. Thanks to St. Anthony Catholic Church for letting them stage the parade and to Boy Scout Troop 793 for hosting the Pancake

Breakfast and Spaghetti Dinner. We also gratefully acknowledge the CERT volunteers for their assistance in staging the parade.

The Belleville Area Museum will continue the Scouting Exhibit through October so take the opportunity to stop by before the end of the month.

We are looking toward to next year's Harvest Fest and hope all of you are, too.

Debra L. Green
Belleville Area District Library
and Janet Millard
Belleville Central Business Community

Goodfellows accepting donations for families

To the Editor:

The Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows are now accepting donations for their 2013 Food and Family Essentials Drive.

Donations of non-perishable food, paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.) and personal products (toothpaste, soap, mouthwash, etc.) may be dropped off at the Van Buren Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road.

Collection boxes will be available in the Van Buren Township Hall main lobby, Rec. Center lobby, Senior Center lobby, and Police Department lobby during regular business hours. The collection box at the Police Department lobby will be available 24/7 for donations.

A collection box will also be available at the Belleville City hall main lobby, 6 Main Street, during regular business hours.

Collection of donations will end Dec. 6. If you wish to make a monetary donation, you may drop it off at the Van Buren Police Department main window or mail it to: Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows, c/o Pam Fleming, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville 48111.

Please make checks payable to Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows.

We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Pam Fleming, Coordinator
Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows

**SALAD LUNCHEON,
BAKE & CRAFT SALE**
Saturday, November 2, 2013 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
BELLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11900 Belleville Road, Belleville, MI 48111
(Christian Education Building)
Cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 5-12.
Come join us for a delicious salad luncheon complete with dessert, coffee or tea.
CRAFTS • BAKED GOODS • RAFFLE
Sponsored by the Belleville Presbyterian Women's Association
734-697-8687



**FREE PARKING
& NO ENTRY FEE!**

The Pumpkin Factory

"A Halloween Fun Farm"
**1,000's Of Pumpkins
To Choose From!**

NOW OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 31!

**VISIT OUR HAUNTED
HOUSE AND CORN MAZE!**

HAYRIDES THROUGH THE HAUNTED CORNFIELD

COUNTRY HAYRIDES \$2

Weekends 12 NOON - 6 P.M.

Pony Rides on Weekends

Fresh Sweet Cider and Homemade Donuts
Home Made Pumpkin Pies • Candy & Carmel Apples
Costumes, Masks, Make-Up

FALL DECORATING ITEMS -
Corn Stalks, Gourds, Indian Corn, Straw, Winter Squash

HOURS:
Sun.-Thurs. 9:30AM - 8:00PM • Fri. & Sat. 9:30AM - 10PM

48651 HARRIS ROAD, BELLEVILLE, MI 48111
(734) 461-1835



Do you dare to join us this Halloween?

**ZOMBIES
INVADE
THE LUNCH BOX!**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31,
10AM UNTIL ?**

**FEATURING SPOOKY SPECIALS, TRICKS &
TREATS ALL DAY.**

FREE CIDER & DONUTS

**FREE HAYRIDES
THRU DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE
7:30-10PM**



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Oct. 13:

0046 – noise complaint, 10667 Oak Ln.
0404 – assault & battery, 41460 E. Archwood
0746 – assault & battery, 45707 S. I-94 Service
0942 – hospice, 42018 Lincoln
1014 – shots fired, 45100 Hull
1246 – larceny from auto, 45501 N. I-94 Service
1402 – dumping complaint, 39750 Ecorse
1706 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service/
Belleville
1803 – juvenile complaint, 51226 Sylvia
1858 – noise complaint, Jeanette/S. I-94 Service
2003 – noise complaint, 46121 Village Green Ln.
2014 – noise complaint, 46000 McBride
2217 – harassment call, 6607 Parkside
2352 – noise complaint, 5880 Winchester

Monday, Oct. 14:

0049 – hospice, 10865 Borgman
0752 – property damage accident, 14734
Wildbrook
0950 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
/Haggerty
1102 – property damage accident, Hannan/Tyler
1116 – trespassing, Colonial/Country Walk
1250 – larceny, 41697 Arthur
1312 – indecent exposure, 9638 Hamilton
1405 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1444 – private property accident, Walmart
1751 – malicious destruction of property, 48870
Denton
1848 – larceny, 8218 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1948 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
2104 – larceny from auto, 10976 Buchanan
2221 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
2309 – narcotics crime, 5585 Big Pine Dr.
2356 – trespassing, 45707 S. I-94 Service

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

0804 – disorderly conduct, 46121 Village Green
1133 – intimidation threat, 8110 Kirkridge Park
1154 – disturbance, 9083 Parkwood
1201 – malicious destruction of property, 48930
Denton
1208 – retail fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
1209 – private property accident, 1785
Rawsonville
1419 – retail fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1431 – disorderly conduct, 11175 Haggerty
1615 – larceny, 1053 Savage
1701 – property damage accident, 2025
Rawsonville

1820 – mental, 9909 Kennedy
2006 – property damage accident, Michigan /
Denton

2126 – suicide or attempt, 185 S. Ponderosa Trl.
2128 – assault & battery, 9880 Haggerty
2154 – harassment call, 8652 Haggerty
2203 – property damage accident, Ecorse/I-275
2230 – larceny, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.

Wednesday, Oct. 16:

0008 – harassment call, 48930 Denton
0015 – property damage accident, 10950 Belleville
0024 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln./N. I-94 Service
0230 – noise complaint, 8800 Parkwood Manor
0347 – mental, 8906 Parkwood
1131 – missing person, 71 N. Ponderosa Trl..
1155 – malicious destruction of property, 48490
Denton
1258 – property damage accident, I-94 Service/VB
Park
1421 – child abuse, 13770 Haggerty
1506 – missing person, 7005 Belle Pointe Dr.
1514 – trespassing, Michigan/Beck
1514 – trespassing, Michigan/Beck
1643 – assault & battery, 9199 Parkwood
1703 – property damage accident, I-94 / Haggerty
2042 – breaking & entering, 45371 Harmony Ln.
2223 – disturbance, 8824 Parkwood
2230 – larceny from auto, Meijer
2301 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 /
Belleville

Thursday, Oct. 17:

0838 – malicious destruction of property, 45400
Hull
0952 – breaking & entering, 39669 Tyler
1029 – juvenile complaint, Belleville/Quirk

1039 – breaking & entering, 9500 Hannan
1412 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
1432 – disturbance, Walmart
1506 – property damage accident, Belleville/I-94
1635 – private property accident, 14105 Westlake
1842 – fraud, 1139 W. Huron River Dr.
1925 – narcotics crime, 5585 Big Pine Dr.
1938 – fraud, 45471 Brookview Dr.
1951 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Walmart
1954 – malicious destruction of property, 7734
Kirkridge Park Dr.

2150 – personal injury accident, WB I-94/west of
Haggerty

Friday, Oct. 18:

0035 – shots fired, 42874 Bradley
0058 – retail fraud, Walmart
0212 – loud party complaint, 10930 Lighthouse
1030 – fraud, 1139 W. Huron River Dr.
1334 – hospice, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1429 – property damage accident, WB I-94/186
1735 – trespassing, 45100 Hull
1750 – ATV/ORV complaint, 16800 Lohr
1751 – suspicious person, Bog/Hoeft
1902 – disorderly conduct, 11773 Meadows Cir.
1909 – juvenile complaint, 45104 Bemis Rd.
2115 – juvenile complaint, 9165 Parkwood Dr.
2201 – harassment call, 6500 Western
2206 – fireworks, 292 Holly Ln.
2233 – suspicious person, Walmart
2339 – noise complaint, 9284 Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, Oct. 19:

0002 – missing person, 46032 Chatsworth Dr.
0215 – property damage accident, Denton/curves
0231 – loitering, 50521 W. Huron River Dr., Pine
Creek
0251 – property damage accident, Haggerty/E.
Huron River Dr.
0347 – noise complaint, 48011 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0345 – narcotics crime, 6533 Parkside Dr.
0513 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
0754 – breaking & entering, 42000 Arthur
1027 – fraud, 1207 Westlake
1043 – larceny, Van Born Rd./Sheldon Rd.
1246 – fraud, 6577 Maurice Dr.
1319 – private property accident, Walmart
1658 – retail fraud, Meijer
1717 – private property accident, Walmart
1828 – assault & battery, 49835 Cross St.
1949 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
2106 – disorderly conduct, Martz/Hoeft
2255 – loud party complaint, 16870 Renton Rd.
2314 – noise complaint, 48021 Hull
2359 – assault & battery, 48581 Denton

Also on this week's log are 212 traffic stops, 94 of
which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 13:

0137 – disorderly conduct, Main/Denton
0239 – suspicious vehicle, Bayou
0350 – suspicious person, 507 Estrada
1458 – juvenile complaint, 89 Carmell
1800 – intrusion alarm, 555 W. Columbia, school
administration building
1824 – information, Hillside
2028 – follow up, 35 Carmell

Monday, Oct. 14:

0835 – assist fire dept., 354 W. Columbia
1352 – disorderly conduct, McBride Middle Schl
1352 – larceny, McBride Middle School
1406 – suspicious situation, Loza/E. Huron River
1451 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 209 Main
1530 – private property accident, 50 South
1610 – malicious destruction of property, Andrew's
1729 – warrant arrest, 2015 Biddle
1818 – suspicious person, 324 Oxford Ct.
1924 – larceny from auto, 303 Victorian
1933 – found property, 6 Main
2149 – private property accident, 6 Main

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

0005 – follow up, 314 E. Huron River
0054 – parking complaint, 225 Belle Villa Blvd.
0244 – civil matter, 140 Church St.
0906 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia, Columbia
Court
0945 – civil matter, 128 Carmell
1041 – harassment call, 6 Main
1527 – animal complaint, 741 Harbour Pointe Ct.

1704 – juvenile complaint, 145 Carmell
2235 – intrusion alarm, BHS
Wednesday, Oct. 16:
0148 – suspicious situation, Belle Plaza
0819 – follow up, 418 Robbe
1114 – follow up, 741 Harbour Pointe Ct.
1417 – found property, 291 W. Columbia
1433 – narcotics crime, 42501 Owen, school
1539 – misc. complaint, 417 Church
1559 – all other traffic, Main/South
1649 – suspicious person, S. Edgemont/E. Huron

River

1839 – fraud, 235 Main
1840 – civil matter, 554 N. Liberty

Thursday, Oct. 17:

1100 – follow up, 430 Main
1346 – misc. complaint, Owen
1445 – larceny, BHS
1445 – assault & battery, BHS
1512 – property damage accident, Main/Denton
1614 – neighbor trouble, 506 Harbor Point
1742 – juvenile complaint, 59 Loza
1841 – vehicle lockout, BHS

Friday, Oct. 18:

0505 – suspicious situation, 111 Carmell
1315 – all other traffic, 35 Main
1626 – fraud, 235 Main
1846 – follow up, 231 N. Aberdeen Ct.
1909 – misc. complaint, 159 Main
1913 – traffic complaint, Sumpter/Owen
1917 – property damage accident, Hayward's
2111 -- malicious destruction of property, 85
Carmell
2112 – traffic complaint, BHS

Saturday, Oct. 19:

0008 – agency assist, 39980 Judd
0109 – noise complaint, 200 Henry
1235 – parking complaint, Charter Bank
2204 – property check
2315 – agency assist, 48021 Hull
2357 – suspicious person, 151 Clarence

Also on this week's log are 51 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Oct. 13:

0241 – suspicious vehicle, Karr/Wear
0557 – civil dispute, Edgewood
0855 – malicious destruction of property, 45000 bl.
Harris Rd.
0908 – fire dept. assist, 46000 Harris Rd.
1202 – neighbor dispute, California
1313 – alarm, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1403 – ORV complaint, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1732 – disorderly person, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
2039 – violation park rules, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Oct. 14:

0127 – suspicious person, 8300 bl. Rawsonville Rd
1215 – larceny, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1229 – breaking & entering report, 5500 bl. Oakville
Waltz Rd.
1655 – accidental damage report, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Rd.

1715 – larceny, Arkona/Haggerty
1746 – suspicious incident, Nevada
2029 – civil dispute, California
2328 – fire dept. assist, Country Club

Tuesday, Oct. 15:

0813 – suspicious vehicle, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0930 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
0940 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1010 – suspicious incident, Rustic Lane
1258 – recovered stolen property, 43000 bl. Bemis
1336 – property damage accident, 23000 bl. Sumpter
Rd.
1550 – suspicious incident, 22000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1710 – threats complaint, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1716 – death investigation, Arizona
1759 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1802 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2140 – 911 hangup, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 16:

0017 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 49000
bl. Bemis Rd.
1007 – larceny, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.

Thursday, Oct. 17:

0011 – mental health commitment, Rustic Lane
0144 – disorderly person, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0259 – warrant arrest, Will Carleton/Oakville

Waltz
0527 – fire dept. assist, Ohio
0741 – property damage accident, Bemis /
Martinsville
0905 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0948 – animal complaint, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.
1101 – breaking & entering report, 5500 bl. Oakville
Waltz Rd.

1150 – alarm, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1329 – well-being check, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1542 – alarm, 34000 bl. Willow Rd.
1743 – 911 hang up, Nevada
1759 – alarm, 22000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1848 – civil dispute, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
2044 – subpoena service, out of township
2236 – subpoena service, Carriage Lane

Friday, Oct. 18:

0049 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1105 – neighbor dispute, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1223 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Haggerty
1238 – follow-up investigation, out of township
1631 – fight, Pecan
1814 – follow-up investigation, 18000 bl. Savage
1850 – fight, Pecan
1852 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd
1906 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter
2119 – civil dispute, 51000 bl. Willis
2203 – threats complaint, Rustic Lane
2246 – warrant arrest, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.

Saturday, Oct. 19:

0006 – follow-up investigation, 39000 bl. Judd
0116 – noise complaint, Nevada
0119 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Lane
1103 – civil dispute, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1123 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1615 – civil dispute, Timberlane Dr.
1632 – citizen assist, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1921 – assist other agency, 36000 bl. S. Huron Rd.
Also on this week's log are 33 miscellaneous details,
92 patrol checks, and 37 traffic stops.

Van Buren Twp. police will be out in full force on Halloween night

Historically, Van Buren Township Police
and Fire Departments have increased
staffing on Halloween evening when the
community's children are out and about
“Trick or Treating.”

In a news release, VBT Director of Public
Safety Gregory Laurain said this year is no
different and police also will be offering
candy checks in the lobby of the police
department for those families who wish to
stop by 46425 Tyler Road.

Director Laurain said, “This year we
added Selected Enforcement Units to
patrol our subdivisions and will be keeping
an eye out for the safety of our kids during
the hours of 5:30 to 8 p.m. This Selected
Enforcement will consist of high visibility
marked patrol units assigned to specific
areas where we anticipate heavy foot
traffic.”

Correction: Name spelling

On page 1 in last week's *Independent*, we
misspelled the name of the chairman of the
Van Buren Township Local Development
Finance Authority. It should be Michael
Dotson. We regret the error and apologize.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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Belleville officials discuss parking problems at BHS, subs

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

"How do you propose to fix the parking issues at Belleville High School?" Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger asked the City Council at the end of its regular meeting on Monday.

He said there were many events at once on Saturday that led to parking that would keep emergency vehicles from getting in.

Steve Jones, planning commission chairman and a school employee, said there was a body building event at the BHS auditorium, with sessions in the day and night on Saturday.

The Cougars football team uses the field

on Saturday and people were parking in inappropriate places because of the crowd.

Add to that, the Homecoming Dance and there was a full gym and full auditorium. He said the fitness center door was being used for people to get to the auditorium and people were parking close to the building to avoid the rain.

"There's no way to get an emergency vehicle in," Jones agreed.

Chief Loranger suggested the school should hire some traffic control people.

Police Chief Gene Taylor said he will address the traffic situation with the school superintendent, as he does each year the problem with the high school band

members walking in the middle of dark streets to get back to the school after the nighttime parade in December.

Then, Chief Taylor mentioned the annual problem in Harbour Pointe subdivision during Halloween trick or treating, which is made more severe by guests to private parties in the sub.

After the downtown Belleville 5-7 p.m. trick or treating, costumed children from throughout the area head to local subdivisions for more treats.

All that adds up to people parking on both sides of the subdivision streets and cars following their trick or treaters through the one remaining lane down the middle to make sure they are safe.

There's no way an emergency vehicle could get to the back of the subdivision on Halloween and that worried everyone.

Mike Renaud, who lives in Harbour Pointe, said last year they put up a sign to prohibit parking in the subdivision, but it was moved to the side. He said last year the council talked about restricting parking to just one side of the street year-round to allow access to emergency vehicles.

Councilman Brian Blackburn, who lives in Victoria Commons, said they have no parking on one side for emergency vehicle access, but people ignore the signs.

Mayor Kerreen Conley, who lives in Harbour Pointe, said the temporary no-parking signs worked during Strawberry Fest.

"It might be a good use of junior officers for an hour," Renaud suggested, referring to the time immediately following the downtown event.

Chief Taylor said there was no problem with enforcement, once the council decided what it wanted to do.

Mayor Conley said they will keep working on the problem and come up with other solutions administratively.

A mailer explaining the situation will be sent to Harbour Pointe residents, but Councilwoman Kim Tindall didn't like spending taxpayers' money for that.

Tom Fielder said they may want to start the "ticket and tow" procedure.

"There's got to be a way to address it," said Mayor Conley, as the 49-minute meeting adjourned.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Held a public hearing on the new fireworks ordinance and then passed it;

- Introduced a zoning ordinance amendment that added restaurants in the B-1 district. This will be on the Nov. 4 meeting agenda.; and

- Approved the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce request for the Winter Fest Parade at 6 p.m., Dec. 7, and street closings that day to provide for on-stage singers (Main Street closed between Third and Roys starting at noon) and a Soup Crawl on closed Fourth Street beginning at noon.



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